



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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‘Those who survive are experts’ -- Old EOD saying

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KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – The PG-7G is a shoulder fired antitank round developed by the former Soviet Union and copied by many communist block and third world countries. It was designed for use against medium armored vehicles, light fortifications and personnel.

With an effective range of 500 yards and simple operation, it is one of the most common rocket propelled grenades (RPG's) in the world. Its high explosive anti-tank (HEAT) warhead contains almost a full pound of explosives. Upon detonation the RDX (an explosive) filler will propel jagged pieces of case fragments at over 8,000 meters per second, for more than 500 feet. The small size makes them likely to strike bones and bounce around inside of the body doing severe internal damage.



The fireball produced will reach temperatures over 4,000 C. Any combustible material in the area, such as wood or cloth, will be ignited. All personnel caught in the blast will suffer deep second and third degree burns.

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2-2-2/EOD

Overpressures will break windows, crack walls, and rupture living cells causing massive hemorrhaging.

Why would anyone bring such an item into their home? We've heard lots of reasons at the EOD shop, but never a good one.

Last week was no exception when our standby team was called to remove the previously-described item from an Albuquerque residence. An army grunt had brought it back as a souvenir from Bosnia and didn't realize how dangerous it was.

U.S. military personnel bring ordnance home all the time. It is picked up during operations like Desert Storm or brought home following an exercise rather than being turned in as excess. The individual will plan to use it as a decoration; or feels that it'll be great for July 4th. Most people will think that its safe and that they have a good reason for having it.

Ordnance shows up as office curios, reminders of supported weapon systems or a tour of duty and as novelty pieces in militaria collections. The owner seldom knows the condition of the fuse or dangers of mishandling the item. On a good day they call EOD and the item is destroyed without incident. Other times it may sit for years before accidentally detonating.

Here is the basic knowledge that every EOD tech lives by. Military ordnance is designed to kill personnel and destroy targets with maximum reliability and expedience. It does not think or feel, nor does it care about your rank, experience or intentions. It is capable of shattering structural supports in buildings and penetrating armored vehicles.

It can tear holes in aircraft and smash support equipment. Most importantly, it will kill and maim every living thing it touches. It is designed for use in a combat environment and does not belong in your home or office.

Last week the incident ended without injury. One hundred plus names on the EOD memorial in Indian Head Maryland attest to the fact that that is not always the case. Call your EOD shop if you have picked up or found a piece of ordnance.

Remember its not worth the risk to yourself, your family or your co-workers to keep it.

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Note to editors: For more information, contact Senior Airman Paul Gritton at (505) 846-4238/5991. DSN prefix is 246. Story by Staff Sgt. Curtis Keel of the 377th Explosive Ordnance Division. Cutline: Examples of the dangerous things people bring home -- but shouldn't. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Paul F. Gritton. The image can be found at <http://www.kirtland.af.mil/pa/images/eod.jpg>